of the Society in a time-bound manner.

(c) Action is being initiated for preparation of status reports for submission to the Committee.

Implementation of 'Ambedkar Gram Scheme' in Kanyakumari district

3935. SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether "Ambedkar Gram Scheme" will be implemented in Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Pension scheme for completely disabled persons

3936. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of handicapped citizens in the country;

(b) whether Government have considered or may consider to have pension schemes for those persons who are completely disabled and are unable to do anything; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) As per the latest sample survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation in 1991, about 16.15 million persons in the country are suffering from visual, hearing, speech and locomotor disabilities.

(b) and (c) The Central Government has no proposal to launch a pension scheme for the disabled at present. A large number of State Governments, Union Territory Administrations have their own pension schemes for the disabled.

Launch of Kasturba Gandhi Shiksha Yojana

3937. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch 'Kasturba Gandhi Shiksha Yojana' in 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof with background;

(c) whether the same will be launched in all the districts of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof with amount fixed for each district;

(e) whether the scheme guarantees eradication of female literacy in the country;

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor;

(g) whether some districts of Assam will be benefited with this scheme; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) to (h) Yes, Sir. The Ministry is in the process of finalising the details of a new scheme in this regard called the Kasturba Gandhi Swantantrata Vidyalaya.

Central assistance in launching educational programmes for welfare of OBCs

3938. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:
DR. MOHAN BABU:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from State Governments for central assistance in launching educational programmes for welfare of Other Backward Classes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) details of central assistance, if any, sanctioned/released therefor till date?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.